

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

/093 W

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R 030140Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4385

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CJCS

DIA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 65

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CB, JA

SUBJECT: MISSING JAPANESE NEWSMEN

1. JAPANESE MILITARY ATTACHE LTC TANABE HAS PROVIDED US THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND PERTAINING TO THE DISAPPEARANCE IN THE ANGKOR WAT AREA OF THE JAPANESE JOURNALIST KOKI ISHIYAMA AND PHOTOGRAPHER, TAIZO ICHINOSE.

2. AFTER HAVING MET THREE TIMES WITH UNIDENTIFIED KC REPRESENTATIVES IN PHNOM PENH, ISHIYAMA ACCOMPANIED BY A KHMER ASSISTANT (WHO IS NOW IN PHNOM PENH) LEFT THE CITY ON OCTOBER 10 FOR OUDONG ON ROUTE 5 AND FROM THERE TO THE KC STRONGHOLD OF AMLEONG NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, WHERE THEY HOPED TO CONTACT KC OFFICIALS. BEFORE LEAVING THEY TOLD FRIENDS THEY EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE OUDONG AREA ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

3. APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AFTER ISHIYAMA LEFT PHNOM
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PENH, HIS KYODO NEWS AGENCY RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HIM

STATING THAT HE WAS PROCEEDING TO ANGKOR WAT ON NOVEMBER 22. THE KYODO AGENCY SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM KC REPRESENTATIVES THAT ISHIYAMA HAD ARRIVED AT ANGKOR WAT ON NOVEMBER 15, 1973. THIS WAS THE LAST WORD REGARDING ISHIYAMA THAT THE AGENCY RECEIVED FROM THE KC.

4. ON NOVEMBER 22 UPI PHOTOGRAPHER TAIZO ICHINOSE (AGED 26) DISAPPEARED WHILE TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS AT ANGKOR WAT.

5. ON DECEMBER 14 THE JAPANESE EMBASSY RECEIVED A REPORT FROM SIEM REAP THAT THE KC WERE HOLDING TWO JAPANESE NEWSMEN, ONE DESCRIBED AS TALL AND THE OTHER SHORT. AS ISHIYAMA IS TALL AND ICHINOSE IS SMALL, THEY ARE ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN THE DETAINEES.

6. ON DECEMBER 4 CHARGE WROTE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR KURINO THAT WE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT THAT A JAPANESE JOURNALIST HAD BEEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY THE KC IN THE SIEM REAP AREA.

7. DURING THE PERIOD DECEMBER 4-6 THE JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE DISPATCHED MESSAGES TO KC REPRESENTATIVES IN HANOI, PARIS AND PEKING ASKING FOR ANY INFORMATION REGARDING ISHIYAMA. REPLIES STATING THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE INVESTIGATED WERE RECEIVED FROM HANOI AND PEKING. A JAPANESE DIPLOMAT ALSO SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM A REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS, WHO SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER.

8. IN RESPONSE TO ITS QUERY, THE JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM SIHANOUK STATING THAT THE GRUNK HAS NEVER KILLED ANY JAPANESE JOURNALIST AND THAT THE MATTER IS BEING INVESTIGATED AND THAT, IF THE JOURNALISTS ARE BEING HELD, HE WOULD ORDER THEM TO BE RELEASED. TANABE SAID A FURTHER REPORT FROM SIHANOUK IS ANTICIPATED IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

9. TANABE HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE US FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER AS IT IS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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